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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6214  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE 0036  
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA IMMEDIATE 0038  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 0041  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0143

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 000040

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DEPARTMENT PASS TO SEIJI SHIRATORI, EUR/SCE

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SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG TO QUICKLY SIGNAL INTENT TO RECOGNIZE  
KOSOVO'S INDEPENDENCE

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission, Steven H. Kraft, for reasons 1.  
4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Ambassador spoke with Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn on 15 February regarding Kosovo's pending declaration of independence. Asselborn asserted that Luxembourg will announce on the evening of Monday, 18 February, its intention to recognize Kosovo's declaration of independence, expected to come on Sunday, 17 February. Citing procedural and parliamentary delays, Asselborn said Luxembourg's formal recognition of Kosovo's independence would occur on Friday, 22 February. Asselborn stressed that the delay in formal recognition would be purely procedural and should not be taken as any indication of hesitancy on Luxembourg's part to recognize.

12. (C) Asselborn also told Ambassador that he would engage in a round of press interviews Monday evening, 18 February, immediately following the EU GAERC meeting for Foreign Ministers in Brussels. He said he would strongly convey Luxembourg's intention to recognize Kosovo's independence at that time.

13. (C) Asselborn informed the Ambassador that the Foreign Ministers still plan to seek a unified statement on Kosovo. Asselborn said, however, that both Cyprus and Spain will "constructively abstain" from any EU statement on Kosovo's independence. Asselborn indicated he was directly involved with the Spanish during negotiations, and that due to the proximity of Spain's domestic elections, they just would not be able to pull the trigger on recognition. Asselborn did not specifically address any other member states' intentions.  
WAGNER